

### **MISS Foundation's Clinical Care Guidelines:**

These are the guiding principles for clinicians and volunteers of the MISS Foundation in working with our bereaved families:

1. We believe that traumatic grief resulting from the death of a child presents the most difficult and painful circumstances for individuals and families;
2. We believe that community (sangha) helps create a safe environment in which individuals and families are better able to be with, surrender to, and eventually take action in the grief journey;
3. Part of the community process is building deeply intimate relationships based on civic love and compassion with our families. Such relationships may extend beyond the four walls of treatment in the MISS Foundation's office! We encourage our clinicians to build healing relationships according to each client's nuanced needs and their own comfort level;
4. We often engage in community-based activities which include retreats, conferences, meetings, family remembrance ceremonies, and other events which bring clinicians together with our families. We encourage our clinicians to participate according to their availability and comfort level;
5. We trust our clients know best what their own unique needs are and we do our best to meet them at that place, accommodating them and shepherding them on their terms, not ours;
6. We respect each person's unique grieving style and engage in mindful, nonjudgmental relationships which do not pathologize their experiences of grief and grief expressions;
7. We do not diagnose or label our clients with mental illness;
8. We believe in family strengths and we do our best to use those to benefit our clients and their family systems;
9. We pledge to remember and honor the lives of the children who died too soon and stand with our families as they mourn;
10. We care deeply for our clients and engage in activities which reflect such human caring;
11. We believe that self-care, compassion, and ongoing education are penultimate to our client's well-being. Thus, we commit to actively engage in daily self-care and ongoing educational opportunities;
12. We strive to offer uniquely individualized care that creates healing environments for our clients. We are not constricted by rigid guidelines or rules which do not, ultimately, result in best care practices for our families.
13. Guided by the ethics of human compassion we serve, we care, we nurture, we love.